

SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

**IPSWICH ACADEMY,
BRAZIERS WOOD ROAD, IP3 0SP**

7.00 PM

Present: Gainsborough Ward Councillors: S Connelly and M Cook
Holywells Ward Councillors: B Studd, G Debman and E Harsant
Priory Heath Ward Councillors: S Barber and B Knowles
SCC Councillors: K Clements, B Quinton

There were 37 members of the public in attendance.

33. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hopgood, Councillor Maguire and County Councillor Gaylard.

34. Unconfirmed Minutes of the Previous Meeting

34.1. Councillor Debman proposed that Minute 31.3 be amended to read as "Councillor Debman requested that all the South East Councillors should get together" and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that, subject to the amendment above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2017 be signed as a true record.

35. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business

35.1. The Chairman proposed that the Order of Business be amended so that Agenda Item 10 (Presentation from SCC Highways) be taken after Agenda Item 5 (Venues for Future Meetings) and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that, subject to Agenda Item 10 being considered after Agenda Item 5, the Order of Business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.

36. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Harsant, being the Chair of the Ipswich Community Playbus, declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 and left the room during the consideration of this item.

37. To Confirm the Venues of Future Meetings

Resolved:

that future dates and venues be confirmed as follows:

- **Wednesday 10 January 2018, 7pm – Alan Road Methodist Church, Alan Road, IP3 8EZ**
- **Wednesday 14 March 2018, 7pm – Priory Heath ward**

38. Presentation: SCC Highways - Road Improvement Schemes

38.1. The Chair introduced Ms Proctor, Senior Engineer, and Mr Ashton, Transport Policy Development Manager, from Suffolk Highways who gave a presentation on proposed road improvement schemes in South East Ipswich with the following key points:

- Countywide transport model had been built to consider the future growth of traffic and how it would move around South East Ipswich; this model would then be used to model the impact of the proposed schemes.
- The road improvement schemes were jointly funded, with £3.5million from the New Anglian LEP and £1.5million from Suffolk County Council (SCC), and schemes were due to be delivered in South East Ipswich as part of the first tranche of improvements.
- Landseer Road/Clapgate Lane: 6-week scheme already underway with street lighting upgrade, replacement of traffic signals that would be triggered by presence of traffic and renewal of footway to Cotman Road.
- Maryon Road/Nacton Road (by the Golden Hind PH): Street lighting to be upgraded, traffic signals to be updated, carriageway to be widened to two lanes that would merge again just past the Golden Hind PH. 8-week scheme to commence in January 2018.
- Bixley Road/Foxhall Road: Street lighting to be upgraded, bus stop and pedestrian crossing to be moved in order to create two lanes on the approach to the Heath Road roundabout to increase capacity. Works to commence in January 2018.

- St Augustine's roundabout: Carriageway to be widened on the approach to St Augustine's roundabout from the Warren Heath roundabout. Street lighting and traffic signals to be upgraded and a new pedestrian crossing to be added. Works to take place in March – August 2018.
 - Nacton Road/Landseer Road/Rands Way roundabout: Public consultation for this scheme was about to commence, with 4,000 letters to be issued to local residents giving details of the consultation events. The proposed scheme would remove the roundabout, close off Rands Way and install traffic signals. This design was in response to high level of maintenance to the kerbs on this roundabout and a number of minor accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians. The consultation would run from 6 November to 4 December 2017. Further details could be found on the website: www.suffolk.gov.uk/ipswichimprovements.
- 38.2. Local resident: Has a risk assessment been done for the closure of Rands Way as many ambulances go past Rands Way and closing it off would result in a longer response time for ambulances.
All of the emergency services would be consulted on the proposed changes as part of the consultation process.
- 38.3. Local resident: I have lived by this junction for 59 years and have seen cars end up in gardens, motorcycle accidents and three different types of roundabout over that time. Traffic lights would be a good idea, but do not close off Rands Way as this provides an alternative route onto Kings Way/Felixstowe Road if traffic gets backed up.
- 38.4. Local resident: There are often buses parked outside the Tesco on Nacton Road and sometimes a bus parked on the other side of the road; any traffic wanting to turn left out of Landseer Road to get to Queens Way would be backed up to Landseer Road.
In light of the growth in traffic, it won't be possible to solve all traffic issues, so the focus has been put on improving the traffic flow along the radial routes.
- 38.5. Local resident: I have already submitted 12 points in relation to the proposals. If you close off Rands Way, how can you stop traffic from using Nacton Crescent and going along Gorse Road?
The transport model would be analysed to identify which routes traffic would be diverted to and then consideration would be given to what measures could be used to mitigate this.
- 38.6. Councillor Cook: Most of the improvement schemes are good, but I have concerns over the Rands Way proposal as this is part of a major route through the town. The alternative routes to using Rands Way need to be identified, e.g. Hatfield Road, Alan Road, Clapgate Lane, most of these would be 20% longer. It is important that the whole network is improved, not just that junction. Turning right out of Lindbergh Road onto Nacton Road is also a nightmare.
- 38.7. Councillor Debman: People have lobbied for a pedestrian crossing for Maryon Road as cars that turn right into this road do not stop for pedestrians trying to

cross Maryon Road. Closing off Rands Way will have an impact on local businesses too. If traffic lights are installed for the Rands Way junction, would this replace the pedestrian crossing on Nacton Road?

Yes, that pedestrian crossing would be moved to be integrated with the traffic signals for the Rands Way junction.

- 38.8. Local resident: There has been a lot of disruption over the years. Reducing the speed limit seemed unnecessary and blocking off Rands Way seems like a bad idea as this would result in two sets of traffic lights close together.

Nacton Road and Landseer Road have the highest traffic levels in the area, improvements to this junction would maximise the benefit for everyone.

- 38.9. Local resident: The lane restriction on Maryon Road makes it very difficult for traffic turning right into Maryon Road off of Nacton Road during busy periods as traffic cannot pass the queue of traffic waiting to turn out of Maryon Road.

Could this lane restriction be replaced with speed bumps instead?

This would be looked at to see if this was possible.

- 38.10. Councillor Barber: Many of the Rands Way residents are against the proposal to close this road off; what is the benefit to local residents? Consideration needs to be given to the impact on Rands Way and Queens Way and other residents in the area.

Some residents were supportive as traffic was already using Rands Way as a rat run.

The Chair reported that there would be extensive public consultation on the proposals, as per the letter being sent out to local residents. For further information, call: 0345 603 1842 or email:

ipswich.improvements@suffolk.gov.uk.

39. Chairman's Update on Actions From Previous Meetings

- 39.1. The Chair reported that a handout of the responses received to previous actions was available at the meeting. The following points were raised in relation to the actions:

- Minute 8.5: Learner HGVs on Cliff Lane: This was permitted in line with the existing Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Councillor Debman requested that a collective request be submitted by the South East Area Committee for the removal of this TRO as it was not appropriate for learner HGVs to be using Cliff Lane.
- Minute 24.3: Transport Surveys for Holywells Park: Local resident asked why a response had not yet been provided.
- Minute 24.4: Kerbs on Leslie Road: Local resident reported that the kerbs had been damaged again by HGVs. County Councillor Quinton reported that Suffolk Highways were aware of this problem and would look at the issue again.

- Minute 32.4: Friends of Murray Park funding bid: The Friends have applied to the Tesco Bags of Help scheme and were looking to submit a joint funding application for outdoor keep fit equipment for the north end of the park to help deter anti-social behaviour in that location.

40. Responses to Public Questions and Open Discussion on Local Issues

- 40.1. Local resident: Has there been any progress on the request for some wheelbarrows and repairs to the entrance to the Back Hamlet allotments?
Officers were waiting for financial information from the Allotment Holders Association in line with the funding protocol; the application was expected to be submitted to January's meeting, subject to due diligence checks.
- 40.2. Local resident: I moved to Gladstone Road over 40 years ago, where most properties were owner occupied. Recently, houses on this street had been purchased and rented out and have been used inappropriately (multiple occupancy, drug uses, prostitution). A food store has opened up on the corner as an off-licence and people have been using the area as a beer garden, with people drinking outside and leaving broken glass on the pavement. Children were often playing on the street at all hours and there has been damage to cars parked on the road. Surely the shopkeeper has a duty to keep the pavement outside the shop clean? There has also been drug dealing taking place. I have reported this to the Police.
- 40.3. Local resident: On Foxhall Road, there is a row of shops, but single yellow lines outside that prevent parking, which results in people parking on Gladstone Road instead and leaves no space for residents on this street to park. How can a property have permission to be used as a shop when there is no parking provision? Could permit parking be considered for Gladstone Road?
Resident permit parking would require a majority agreement, and previous requests on this street have failed either because temporary residents didn't reply or didn't want to pay for the permit scheme. The shops on Foxhall Road were part of a district shopping centre and had been granted permission a long time ago, so planning permission could not be taken away.
- 40.4. Local resident: Has there been any progress on the Upper Orwell Crossings scheme? There has been concern about the increase in traffic along Cliff Lane; there are already "parent rage" incidents occurring outside the school, with arguments over parking when dropping their children off.
- 40.5. Local resident: Who gives premises permission to sell alcohol?
Ipswich Borough Council was the Licensing Authority. When an application for a licence was submitted, the public and responsible authorities, e.g. the Police, could submit representations if there were concerns, and this could result in a licence not being granted.

41. Policing Update

- 41.1. The Chair introduced Sergeant Phil Barrett of the Ipswich East Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who provided the following update on policing

priorities:

Gainsborough Library anti-social behaviour: there has been a serious level of anti-social behaviour towards staff and users of the library, including an arson attempt. The Police have been working with the families of the children causing the problem and were putting banning orders in place.

Gladstone Road and Devonshire Road anti-social behaviour: This has been a priority since September and involved two families that had recently moved into this area. 7 calls had been made in relation to incidents, including damage to a parked car. The Police have visited the families and issued a written warning in relation to the behaviour of their children; this was advisory, not a criminal process. The families and their landlords were informed that if the anti-social behaviour continued, then consideration could be given to eviction. Patrols have been increased in these two roads. There had also been issues with the Mini Market on the corner and the Police undertook a licensing check of the premises, which failed on a couple of conditions; a notice was served and if the situation did not improve, the premises could be referred to the Licensing Authority.

Rough sleeping/begging on the Waterfront: A multi-agency response has been taken in conjunction with the Ipswich Central SNT and local businesses; people with chaotic lifestyles were being signposted to the relevant support agencies.

The SNT produce a monthly online newsletter that outlined the current demand of the SNT and what the SNT was focusing on. Crime reduction measures were important this time of the year to help deter domestic burglary and theft from vehicles.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) was currently awaiting repair, but would return to the area.

Contacting the Police: The Police have acknowledged that there were still issues with calling the 101 number, but the Chief Constable was committed to improving this mode of contact. If people have issues getting through on 101 and it was a non-urgent matter, then information could be sent via the Suffolk Police website (<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something>), by email to the SNT (IpswichEast.SNT@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) or by contacting local ward Councillors; however, if it was an emergency, i.e. crime actually taking place, then people should call 999.

- 41.2. Local resident: Trading Standards visited the Mini Market as counterfeit cigarettes were being sold. The premises lost its licence, then changed management, re-applied for a licence and was issued with a licence again. *This information was held on record; the Police carried out a licensing check of the premises as a result of the complaints received.*
- 41.3. Councillor Harsant: A request had been made for alley gates on Devonshire Road. There was a house on Back Hamlet that was being used as a drugs house again. The Council's Cleansing Team had been asked to tidy up the

area outside the shops on Gladstone Road/Devonshire Road.

- 41.4. Councillor Cook: There has been a lot of Police activity, however in the crime figures published on 19 October, crime was up 13% nationally and the increase was 23% across Suffolk, with Ipswich being second worst to Leeds on a comparative basis. What is being done to address this trend? Burglary has risen 70% in Ipswich. The quarterly crime statistics should be downloaded and included on the agenda.

The national crime recording standard has changed and everything was now being recorded, both crime and non-crime. The burglary figures now included a number of different classifications so that, for example, burglary from sheds was included as part of the house burglary figures.

- 41.5. Councillor Barber: The Police should be congratulated for all the hard work they do to keep people safe.

42. Ipswich Academy Update

- 42.1. Ms Helen Winn, Principal of Ipswich Academy, reported that the tragic loss of former Principal, Amanda Phillips CBE, in June had been a blow to the school and local community, but the school was continuing to build on the solid foundation laid and its reputation was still improving. Ms Winn added that its pupils were proud to be part of the Academy.

- 42.2. Ms Winn reported that the latest "Progress 8" data showed that the school was now performing above the national average and was the 4th best in Ipswich (having previously been the worst). The focus remained on improving the quality of teaching and literacy and numeracy skills, and extra-curricular activities were also being offered to enrich the teaching experience for pupils, e.g. 500 children were giving the opportunity to learn CPR on practice dolls by paramedics.

- 42.3. Ms Winn commented that the Academy were aware of the issues around drug gangs and were working closely with the Police and already had initiatives in place. The Academy regularly talked with pupils about appropriate conduct both in school and in the local community.

- 42.4. Councillor Debman: The Academy should be congratulated on the progress it has made over the last year, having previously been seen as a school that parents didn't want their children to attend. I would like to meet with the Academy next year to discuss gang crime issues.

The Academy would be happy to show any Councillors around and the positive feedback would be reported to pupils in assembly.

- 42.5. Councillor Cook: How has the Academy dealt with the impact of cuts in funding from Central Government?

As resources were limited, this was used to concentrate on the quality of the teaching offered at the Academy. As a Trust, finances were well managed and resources were provided in accordance with the budget available. Ms Winn added that she had 6 years' previous experience in a commercial environment.

Expenditure was focussed on staff rather than trivialities and the Academy was also good at bidding for other funding. Pupils were not charged to go on educational trips to ensure that this opportunity was open to all children and the Academy would find funding for such activities.

- 42.6. The Chair commented that the Priory Heath ward Councillors were impressed by the changes made over the last year and the spirit of both the pupils and staff at the Academy.

43. SEAC/17/12 Funding Request: Ipswich Community Playbus

- 43.1. Mr Lanning, Community Engagement Officer, reported that the Ipswich Community Playbus provided facilities for early years learning and offered 8 free play session stops per week during school terms, with one stop in South East Ipswich on Ravenswood. The Playbus was applying for a total of £10,000 across the five Area Committees, split in accordance with the number of stops offered in each area.
- 43.2. Councillor Connelly: The Playbus often has parents arriving by car as there are no stops in Gainsborough – why doesn't the Playbus go elsewhere?
Ms Mandy Potter, Ipswich Community Playbus Coordinator, reported that the Ravenswood stop had been running for 10 years and always had full numbers. Each stop had to be in a safe location and have room for the bus to park up. The Playbus went where the need was and there was a constant need on Ravenswood.
- 43.3. Councillor Debman: Does the Playbus have disability access? If more funds were available, could more stops be offered, e.g. in Gainsborough or Holywells?
There was a limit on the number of stops that could be supported, as each session ran for 2 hours plus set up/set off time, but there was a potential for more stops. A funding bid was being made to SCC in conjunction with the Treehouse Centre for a stop on Hawke Road/Roebeck Road.
- 43.4. Councillor Knowles: The Playbus has lost its principal funding partner, SCC, who no longer considered it a priority for them, and has used nearly half of its funding over the last 2 years. The future of Children's Centres was also in jeopardy; there is concern about how the Playbus can fund itself in future years.
There has been considerable outlay recently as the engine of the bus failed and a generator was also required to provide lighting and heating, which accounted for approximately £17,000. The amount of funding available varied from year to year, but the aim was to keep the Playbus on the road; however, the need from young families has never dropped.
- 43.5. Councillor Knowles: The level of expenses has not changed, but the income has dropped from roughly £84,000 in 2011/12 to £31,000 in 2015/16, how is this being addressed?
Applications for funding would continue to be made to various organisations, e.g. Children in Need, and an application for funding was being submitted for

an extra stop on Hawke Road.

- 43.6. Councillor Cook: Does the service need to be provided on a bus – could it be provided at a fixed community venue instead?
Families have already highlighted that some Children’s Centre services had been cut and have asked what we could do. The Playbus provided a unique service right at the heart of the community.
- 43.7. Local resident: The Playbus is unique and children like that the activities are provided on a bus. Perhaps Lottery funding could help or use the back of the bus for advertising to help raise income. The bus provides a different environment to a Children’s Centre and children find it exciting because it is a bus.
- 43.8. Local resident: As a child, I was attracted to being on the bus rather than in a room. It should continue unless it stops paying its way or numbers dwindle. It is a valuable attraction and children look forward to it coming around.
- 43.9. Councillor Barber: It is reassuring to hear that there is still a need for the Playbus and that it is valued in the community.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £1,250 from the South East Area Committee for the Ipswich Community Playbus as a contribution towards the running costs of 8 weekly play session stops across Ipswich.

Reason: The Ipswich Community Playbus is a long established and valued ‘Early Years’ provision for families across Ipswich and beyond

44. SEAC/17/13 Funding Request: Let's Talk Reading

- 44.1. Mr John Helleur and Ms Clair Pyper from the Let’s Talk Reading Project gave a presentation with the following key points:
- The South East Area Committee previously provided £5,000 to this project to help improve low literacy levels at age 11 at Ipswich Academy. The project would be run for 10 years.
 - The project sought to engage with those schools with poor literacy performance, to work with parents to encourage them to read with their children from an early age, signpost those parents who were struggling to read to adult tutoring and raise awareness of literacy issues.
 - 1 in 6 adults in England were unable to read well enough to succeed in modern life; in the most disadvantaged areas, this could be as high as 1 in 3 people.
 - In its first year, the project obtained £7,500 funding for participating schools for literacy improvements, distributed 500 book bags for 2-year olds and 200 ‘teach a friend to read’ manuals, and engaged with a variety of agency partners.
 - These initiatives had resulted in KS2 SAT Reading Test improvements.

- This year the project would focus on early years via the Suffolk Babies antenatal/postnatal classes and through the provision of reading volunteers in schools and nurseries via Beanstalk and Volunteer Matters.
 - Book bags would also be distributed for the next year of 2-year olds.
 - Other initiatives would include engagement with hard to reach parents with literacy problems, schools focus via the Reading Pledge, volunteers being trained through the Read Easy charity and consideration of the impact of health issues on reading, such as Irlen's syndrome.
- 44.2. Councillor Cook: The results are impressive, so consideration should be given to awarding this project £5,000 as previously.
- 44.3. Councillor Connelly: This project has an immense scope and would be plugging gaps in other organisations' funding, but it would be solving literacy problems. There appears to be £5,000 of administration costs for each area; is there sufficient resource to deliver the project?
The total administration was approximately £20,000, which has been split across four Area Committees. Some of the work was being undertaken on a voluntary basis by Mr Helleur, Ms Pyper and Mr Annabel; expansion of the project depended on other organisations being able to deliver the plan.
- 44.4. Councillor Connelly: Suffolk Babies are based in Kesgrave – why is this service not being delivered in Ipswich?
Suffolk Babies were set up as a Community Interest Company (CIC) to run ante-natal classes and have taken over the classes that used to be run by the NHS. They provide services in Ipswich, with free classes at the Wellington Centre and the Treehouse Centre in Ipswich, and fundraise to be able to deliver these classes.
- 44.5. Councillor Debman: This is a 10-year project – will funding applications be made to the Area Committees in future years?
Yes, applications would be made if the Area Committee continue to support this initiative.
- 44.6. Councillor Debman: How will the project 'involve local businesses'?
£200 has been allocated to promote the project through window stickers.
- 44.7. Councillor Debman: In the financial summary, the Council has already allocated £10,000 to this project.
That funding was granted last year; this year, the Project has applied for funding from the Area Committees instead.
- 44.8. Councillor Cook proposed that £5,000 be granted to the Let's Talk Reading Project and this was agreed.

Resolved:

that the South East Area Committee approve funding of £5,000 from the South East Area Committee as a contribution towards the Let's Talk Reading project.

Reason: To improve child and adult literacy in South East Ipswich through interventions and additional support to children and families

45. Community Intelligence - Verbal Update from Ward Councillors

- 45.1. Councillor Connelly reported that Gainsborough Community Library had held a Fun Palace event in October 2017 with funding from the Gainsborough Community People's Forum.
- 45.2. Councillor Barber reported that girls and boys from the Gainsborough Library had visited the Mayor's Parlour and she would be welcoming the Ravenswood Residents Association to the parlour soon.
- 45.3. County Councillor Clements reported that she was working with Suffolk Highways to address issues raised in relation to Benacre Road, Maryon Road, Reynolds Road, Cliff Lane and Dereham Avenue.
- 45.4. Councillor Debman reported that recommendations had been made at the Council's Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Committee with regards to mitigating the effects of Orwell Bridge closures. This piece of work had originally been raised by residents in South East Ipswich and had been taken forward by former Councillor Keith Rawlingson.

46. SEAC/17/14 Area Committee Financial Update

- 46.1. Mr Blofield, Head of Housing and Community Services, reported that following the approval of funding bids totalling £6,250, the South East Area Committee now had £27,139.73 available to spend on the priorities in its Action Plan.

Resolved:

that the financial statement in Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

Reason: To provide clear and transparent details of the amount of funds available to the Area Committee to deliver the priorities in its Action Plan

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm

Chair